

April 30, 2001

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Fr: George O. Saile    Reg. No. 19,572  
20 McIntosh Drive  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603

Subject:

**Divisional Patent Application of**  
Serial No.: 09/541,484 4/3/00  
WEN-TING CHU, HSIN-MING CHEN  
A NOVEL SELF-ALIGNED, LOW CONTACT  
RESISTANCE, VIA FABRICATION PROCESS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment for the above referenced Divisional Patent Application. Please amend the above identified application for patent as follows:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 30, 2001..

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. No. 37,761

Signature/Date



**PLEASE AMEND THE SPECIFICATION AS FOLLOWS:**

After the title, insert -- This is a division of Patent Application serial number 09/541,484, filing date 4/3/00, A Novel Self-Aligned, Low Contact Resistance, Via Fabrication Process, assigned to the same assignee as the present invention.

**REMARKS**

A reference to the parent case has been added by Preliminary Amendment to this Divisional Patent Application.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance of the subject Patent Application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SBA', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

STEPHEN B. ACKERMAN, REG. NO. 37,761